

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01991 252036Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 CTME-00 TRSE-00
JUSE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 /021 W
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O R 252006Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 173
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1991

MEXICO FOR LEGATT

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: CGEN, HO
SUBJECT: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE: JUSTICE, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS' INTERVIEWS
WITH WITNESSES

REF: STATE 104078

1. EMBASSY QUITE FRANKLY SURPRISED THAT GENERAL OSWALDO LOPEZ ARELLANO HAS APPARENTLY AGREED TO MEET WITH JUSTICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. EMBASSY CONCURS IN VISIT BUT, IN VIEW OF HIS FORMER POSITION AS CHIEF OF STATE OF HONDURAS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MUST, AT LEAST INFORMALLY, ADVISE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. TEGUCIGALPA IS SUCH A SMALL CITY THAT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THE PROPOSED VISIT WILL GO UNNOTICED.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, GENERAL LOPEZ IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF A \$1.25 MILLION ILLICIT PAYMENT BY THE UNITED FRUIT CO., ALTHOUGH ONLY THE THEN-MINISTER OF ECONOMY ABRAHAM BENNETON IS CURRENTLY BEING TRIED. (FYI-GOH HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN GAINING INFORMATION FROM SWISS BANKS ON THIS PAYMENT AND CHARGES MAY BE DISMISSED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE.) GOH, HOWEVER, WAS VERY COOPERATIVE WITH USG WHEN
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BRIBERY STORY BROKE IN APRIL, 1975. FOR THIS REASON, ALSO, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MUST INFORM GOH OF AN INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE ILLICIT PAYMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE.
JARAMILLO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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